



# Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Haystack in front of Belvidere Church.

## Belvidere Commemorates Haystack Prayer Meeting

A stack of forage was placed at the entrance of First United Church of Christ, Belvidere, from October 18 through November 15 as part of an observance of the 175th anniversary of the 1806 Haystack Prayer Meeting. It was that meeting which sparked interest and support for missionary work overseas by Protestant churches in the United States.

The commemoration included a November 1 visit by Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Braun, former medical missionaries to Ghana under the United Church Board for World Ministries, who gave a color slide presentation to church school classes and spoke in the morning worship service.

On November 8, after worship in the sanctuary, members of the congregation gathered outside around the forage stack for prayer on behalf of our UCC missionaries throughout the world. The observance helped adults as well as youth to gain a greater appreciation for the UCC's mission ministry and history.

## 25th Anniversary Resources Available

"Never apologize for a 25th anniversary of a church or a denomination. It may be the most poignant of all anniversaries and filled with potential," said Avery D. Post of our United Church of Christ.

This is just part of the message from Dr. Post in "UCC 25th Anniversary: Ideas for Reflection and Celebration," a resource packet published by the UCC Office for Church Life and Leadership. A series of papers by UCC leaders on the past, present and future of our denomination is also included in the packet, as is "The Emerging United Church of Christ," an overview of the roots of the UCC and personal reflections on the merger by someone who was there, Mrs. Douglas Horton.

The packet also offers a suggested order of worship for our 25th Anniversary, as well as ideas for incorporating information you discover about your church and community into your worship and celebration.

A list of 25th Anniversary materials available from other UCC agencies is also included. Order this important packet for \$3.00 (prepaid) from:

Church Leadership Resources  
1400 N. Seventh St., Suite B  
St. Louis, MO 63106

June 25 is the date of the 25th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ.

## Hunger Fund Makes Grant

The Tennessee Agricultural Marketing Project, based in Nashville, has received a \$3,000 grant from the United Church of Christ's Hunger Action Fund.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the United Church Board for World Ministries, the funds will go toward development of community and user-controlled marketing and buying systems, on-farm energy production and economic development organizations. The grant will also be used to support Tennessee Agricultural Marketing's work on farmland preserva-

[Continued on Page 2]



Ms. Mary Marshall [r] was one of many Southeast Conference women attending the Southern Regional Meeting.

## Southern Regional Meeting "Mountain Top" Experience

Over 200 women attended the Second Southern Regional Meeting of Women of the United Church of Christ held October 16-18, 1981 at DuBose Conference Center, on the "mountain top" at Monteagle, TN. The conference was attended by representatives from four UCC Conferences: the Southeast, Southern, Florida and South Central. Persons from as far north as Virginia and as far west as Texas were in attendance.

The theme of the Conference was "Varied Gifts, One Spirit — Women of Faith." The purpose of the meeting was to name, develop and share each person's gift as women of faith in the UCC in the Southern Region.

Ms. Louise Cox, Moderator of the East Alabama Association presided during the meeting.

Some 13 workshops, led by Southern Region leaders and UCC national staff, were offered to participants. A wide range of topics were covered all the way from "Jesus According to Women" to "Peace

[Continued on Page 3]

## CONFERENCE CORNER

By EMMETT FLOYD

I don't know about everyone else but I like the beginning of a new year. While there is a certain sadness about the passage of time relating to the passing of friends and the fact of getting older, there is also an excitement.

Throwing away an old calendar and installing a new one promises fresh opportunities. I am never satisfied with what has been done. I could always have done better. But with a new year God gives us a renewed opportunity to serve Him better. The past influences us, but does not absolutely determine us. We can do better. The Kingdom can be advanced. Resolutions are meaningful if we remember to give them over to God for His blessing and His keeping.

So may 1982 with all its problems be an occasion to make real in our lives the promises of God. May the members and churches of the Southeast Conference renew their dedication to Jesus Christ in such a manner that His Spirit may live in our lives and in our service. The coming year can be a good year for faith and renewal. Time is a gift. Let us use it well for God's sake.

## COCU Considers Language And Liturgy

The Consultation on Church Union sponsored a "Language and Liturgy Consultation" November 15-17 at Scarritt College, Nashville, TN.

Goals for the consultation were to: explore implications of language about God and God's people in scripture and liturgy, lift up a vision of inclusiveness in the COCU quest, share resources developed by COCU, participate in worship and provide illustrations of the local church as an educational model for change.

Seminars dealt with the feminine and masculine images of God in Scripture, liturgical language and trinitarian theology in liturgical usage, the power of language in preaching, hymnody, worship, leadership, and the local church as a model for change.

Participating in the consultation from the United Church were Sally Bentley who led interpretive dance, Rev. Yvonne Delk of the Office for Church in Society and Dr. Peggy Way of Vanderbilt Divinity School.



Some of the many guests honoring Mr. E.L. Simon and his wife, Jewel. Pictured to the right are Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and his wife, Jean.

## E. L. Simon Honored

Mr. E.L. Simon was honored on November 11, 1981 at an occasion celebrating his fifty years of community service to the people of Atlanta.

Accompanied by his wife Jewel, a nationally known artist, Mr. Simon was honored by a distinguished group of guests. In addition to Mayor-elect Andrew Young and his wife Jean, present were top executives of Atlanta Life Insurance Company, the President of Clark College, government representatives, members of the religious community and a host of family and friends.

The Simons are members of First Congregational Church, UCC in Atlanta where E.L. Simon serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

## Teacher Education Event Scheduled

The United Church of Christ is participating with partner denominations in Joint Educational Development (JED) which is holding 14 regional events for teachers and leaders in church education to be held in the Spring of 1982 through Spring 1983.

The desired outcome of each regional event are to (1) help participants use current CE:SA resources effectively; (2) introduce new CE:SA and revised JED resources and (3) enhance the critical interactions between teachers and learners.

Persons representing the Southeast Conference will be attending the event scheduled for May 14-16 in Memphis, TN.

For further information, contact Sue Hartman in the Conference Office.

## Rescinding Employment Rules Protested

Plans to roll back the Federal Communications Commission's equal employment rules were protested by 48 organizations in a statement released in New York by the UCC's Office of Communications.

"With the current recession and resulting high unemployment of minorities and women, FCC protection of employment rights is doubly needed," the statement asserts. "We object to any repeal of Commission rules that ensure equal employment opportunity in broadcasting, when stepped-up vigilance in behalf of minority and women's groups is called for."

The protest letter is being delivered to all FCC Commissioners, who are expected to hold hearings on the EEO regulations. In addition to the United Church's communication office, signers included the denomination's Board for Homeland Ministries and Commission for Racial Justice and eight other labor, governmental and social organizations.

## Hunger Fund - Cont'd . . .

tion, farmer and consumer education, and technical advice and training for farmers.

The project was recommended by the Southeast Conference.

The Hunger Action Fund, which is supported by donations from United Church of Christ congregations and individuals, finances projects which address the root causes of hunger. This year, the fund has made \$91,000 in grants to 28 programs around the country.

## Education Theme Of Alabama Meeting

An Area-wide Christian Education Meeting for all the churches in the southern Alabama area has been scheduled for Saturday, February 6 at the Lanett Congregational Christian Church, UCC, Lanett, AL.

The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST.

Features and ideas to be offered will include:

1. Caravan camping display, including World's Fair information.
2. Sunday School multi-media training kits.
3. Bible School materials.
4. UCC Identity — The Pilgrims
5. New Horizons in Camping
6. Chrismons

Persons or churches interested in attending should contact Rev. Warren Blankenhorn at 205-297-8163.



Sweetwater First United Church of Christ

## Women's Meeting- Cont'd

and Public Policy" to "Learning to Live with Less."

Special leadership was provided by Marilyn Breitling, Coordinator of the Coordinating Center for Women, Gretchen Eick of the Office for Church Society, Joyce Myers of the Office of Church Life and Leadership and Yvonne Delk, Executive Director of the Office for Church and Society.

Making up the planning team for the conference were Ms. Marion Sperry, Ms. Lena Hazard, Ms. Barbara Everett, Ms. Carol Jean Delcher, Betty Youngkin and Rev. Joyce Myers.



UCC Army Chaplain Maria Snyder, a participant at the Southern Regional Women's Meeting.

## Sweetwater Dedicates Church

The congregation of First United Church of Christ in Sweetwater, TN believes that dreams can come true. On December 13, 1981 the dream of a new church building became a reality as the congregation in cooperation with the Alabama-Tennessee Association dedicated its new \$150,000 church structure.

With its previous building unsuitable for renovation or repair, the congregation of First Church began several years ago to save for a new church building. The fundraising effort was accelerated when the roof of the old building actually collapsed earlier in 1981. Through their own fundraising and a loan from the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the new building was constructed on the site of the old and completed late in 1981.

In addition to a sanctuary which will seat close to 200, the new building offers a spacious fellowship hall, kitchen, church school rooms, lavatories and offices.

The December 13th Dedication Program included a morning worship service which focused on the laying of the church cornerstone. The afternoon service, celebrated by a standing-room crowd, involved a variety of Ala-Tenn representatives in the formal dedication of the church building. The sermon was preached by Conference Minister Dr. Emmett Floyd.

With 104 members the congregation of First United Church of Christ in Sweetwater looks to the future with the knowledge that dreams can become reality!

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

- Jan. 1 - SEC Office Closed
- Jan. 6 - Epiphany
- Jan. 9 - East Alabama Singles Retreat
- Jan. 10 - Interchurch Committee on Cooperative Programming, Nashville
- Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King's birthday —  
—SEC Office closed  
—Deadline for ordering Spring CE:SA materials
- Jan. 22 - Uplands Board of Directors, Pleasant Hill, TN
- Jan. 23 - South Alabama-Northwest Florida youth rally, Pyron Chapel, UCC
- Jan. 30 - Southeast Conference Board of Directors, Chattanooga Pilgrim UCC
- Feb. 6 - Ala-Tenn Youth Leader Training Meeting, Chattanooga Pilgrim UCC
- Feb. 11-12 - UCC Resource Centers Workshop, Louisville, KY
- Feb. 11-15 — Meeting of UCC Conference Executives, Nashville
- Feb. 12-13 - Association for United Church Educators, Louisville, KY
- Feb. 14 - Race Relations Sunday  
—Ala-Tenn Association Youth Reach Out Day
- Feb. 14-18 - North American Event for Church Educators, Louisville, KY
- Feb. 20 - East Alabama's Men's Fellowship Ladies Night, Southern Union College, 6:00 P.M.
- Feb. 24 - Ash Wednesday - Lenten Season begins
- Feb. 26 - Uplands Board of Directors, Pleasant Hill, TN

## CURT'S NUGGETS

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee:

Your real self is revealed in everything you spend.





Ms. Judy Voehringer led a workshop on "The Family Farm" for the Rural Life Conference.

## New Children's Bible Series Available

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries is introducing a new Bible-based curriculum for children, to be ready for use in the Fall of 1982. This new curriculum embodies a solid scriptural approach, innovative learning techniques, and the exciting application of biblical principles.

The Children's Bible Series is a growing experience in the knowledge and appreciation of the Bible as the authoritative guide for Christian faith and living. It will help boys and girls to grow in their personal relationship with the God of the scriptures. The ultimate goal is for each learner to respond as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

At each age level there are certain "growing" tasks needed for children to develop into creative, mature men and women. This series grows with the child. Beginning with the simpler "growing" tasks for young children, the series progresses to more complex tasks in relating biblical themes to elementary and junior children.

This series is designed for very flexible use. Churches with fewer children in each age group will appreciate the broad grading patterns:

Young Children — Ages 3, 4, 5

Primary — Grades 1, 2, 3

Junior — Grades 4, 5, 6

The curriculum materials will include for each age level a Teacher's Resource Guide and Student's resource. Introductory kits are now available. Contact Sue Hartman at the Conference Office for further information.

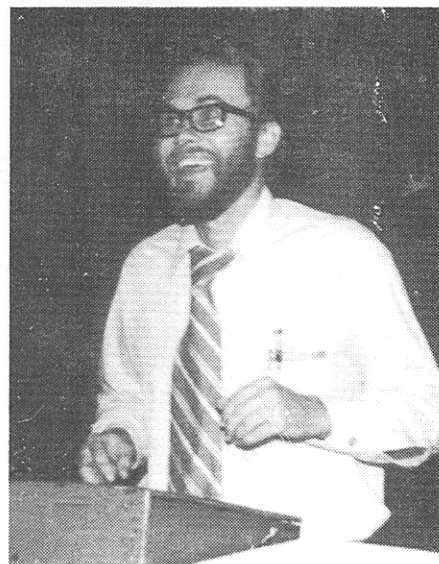
## Rural America Conference Subject

"Rural America Life and Issues" was the title of a southeast regional conference sponsored by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and held October 15-17, 1981 at Franklinton Center, Eufield, N.C.

Attending from the Southeast Conference were Rev. David Chandler, Pastor of Lanett, AL UCC, Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister and Rev. John Schaffer, Pastor, Belvidere, TN, UCC and a member of the conference's regional planning committee.

In addition to a number of informative workshops which dealt with agricultural as well as church-related issues, the Conference was highlighted by a sermon by Dr. Wesley Hotchkiss of UCBHM entitled "The Mission of the Church in the Rural South."

The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Dan McCurry, a consulting agricultural economist from Chicago who is Director of the Consumers Federation of America and National Consumers League. Dr. McCurry gave two addresses on the theme "The Rural South: Its Problems and Potential."



Rural Life Keynoter Dr. Dan McCurry

## Why The Leaves Fall

Many, many moons ago when the world was young, the grass and flower folk were enjoying the beautiful summer weather. But as the days went by, the weather became colder and colder.

The grass and flowers grew sad, for they had nothing to protect them from the sharp cold. Just when it seemed that there was no hope for living, He who looks after the things He created came to their aid. He said that the leaves of the trees should fall to the ground and spread a soft, warm blanket over the tender roots that were about to freeze. To repay them for their kindness, He allowed them one last bright array of beauty.

That is why the trees take on their pretty farewell colors of red, gold and brown each year during Indian summer. Then the leaves turn to their task of covering the earth with a thick rug of warmth.

Most people want to be useful. Like the leaves in the old Sioux legend they want to protect the weak. They also want to "live it up" while they can.

They tend to forget about the cold needy world and think only of their own glory and beauty. They cling to their youth like dry crackled maple leaves that rustle on their boughs until the moon of new leaves.

He who created all things truly does ask them to die to self that others might live. Yet in so doing they find new life in Him.

Said one of His followers: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me . . ." — CAIM News

## HABITAT WISH LIST

Appalachia Habitat for Humanity is always in need of church support. Two of the project's many "wish lists" are:

### For Families

Cook stoves, Refrigerators  
Beds, Good used clothing  
Household appliances and furniture  
220W electric floor heaters  
Fire extinguishers and smoke alarms

### For Houses

\$ 2 — one 2/4 stud  
\$ 25 — one week support for volunteer  
\$ 45 — for a door  
\$100 — for a kitchen sink  
\$250 — for a flue for heating stove  
\$500 — for a room  
\$750 — for a bathroom  
\$1,000 — for a roof  
\$18,000 — for a house

Appalachia Habitat is an affiliate project of Habitat for Humanity, Inc., Americus, GA. Habitat for Humanity is a Christian ministry which puts God's love into action by building simple, low-cost houses for poor families. Houses are built from contributions and no interest loans and are sold at cost to families who make monthly payments back to Habitat over 20 years at no interest. Send contributions to: Mr. Mark Frey, Appalachia Habitat, P.O. Box 14, Robbins, TN 37852.



## Services Held For Vernon Carter

Services were held recently for Mr. Vernon L. Carter of Wadley, AL who died on December 23, 1981.

Mr. Carter was a charter member of Wadley Christian Church, UCC and for a number of years served as both Secretary and Treasurer of the church.

Mr. Carter also gave much support to Southern Union College during the early years and has a building named for him at that institution.



Conference Minister E.O. Floyd and Rev. James Cantrell, pastor of First Congregational UCC, Savannah, GA.

## BITS AND PIECES

The United Church of Christ provides such a wide variety of materials that sometimes it's easy to miss a publication that could be helpful in the life of your church. Here are three "bits and pieces" for you to consider:

—"Families" — a quarterly newsletter outlining family life resources, newly published materials and ways that a local congregation can explore this priority of the general Synod.

—"Careers in the Educational Ministry of the Church" — outlines types of positions and training necessary to serve as an educator in a local parish.

—"The Church Seeks an Educator" — how a local congregation surveys a position and the process to be followed in securing a qualified person to the position.

All three publications are available from: UCBWM, 132 West 31st Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10001.

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## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the eastern shore of the Conference is First Congregational Church, UCC in Savannah, GA. Unique in its heritage, First Church was founded in 1869 as an outgrowth of the educational efforts of the American Missionary Association which started Beach Institute in Savannah in 1867. The Institute, which began as a private academy for black students, became the site of the first public high school for blacks in Savannah.

In 1895 the church built the sanctuary in which it now resides, adding an educational wing in 1976. In addition to regular church programming, which includes radio broadcasting, aid to Social Apostolate, leadership in the NAACP, and a youth ministry program, the church sponsors a day care program in addition to operating a kindergarten, a program which it has offered continuously for over 75 years.

Leading the congregation of 117 members is Rev. James H. Cantrell, Pastor.

## Something To Think About

We cannot spell CH RCH without U.  
We cannot spell AD LT without U.  
We cannot spell YO TH without U.  
We cannot spell M SIC without U.  
We cannot spell S NDAY without U.

## Women And The UCBWM

When the first American Protestant missionaries were ordained and commissioned for overseas service in 1812, their wives and fiancées sat in a nearby pew, spectators only, though a few days later two of them were to constitute half of the "missionary company" that sailed out of Salem for India.

Much has changed in our church since that long-ago day. Women are ordained. Women are appointed full-fledged missionaries. Women hold posts of leadership abroad.

Just how far women have come has been documented by Rev. Elinor G. Galusha, UCBWM Secretary for Overseas Personnel.

### Missionary Personnel

Of 260 people working overseas, 150 are women. Of these, one-third are teachers, 32 are in church leadership development, 16 in health fields, 3 in community development, 4 are clergy, 3 are in theological education and 20 are accompanying their husbands and are without portfolio.

### Nationals from Overseas

Of 39 overseas leaders on scholarship in 1981, 17 are women — large increase in the past 5 years. They seek advanced degrees in theology, religious education, medicine, nursing, child development and other fields.

### Women's Education

The UCBWM provides faculty for a dozen Christian schools in Japan. It underwrites support for other schools in South Africa, Turkey, Ghana, and leadership training projects in Latin America, Southeast Asia and South and East Asia.

### Women's and Children's Health

The UCBWM is involved in health work for women and children around the world in such places as Botswana, Botswana — Athens and Jerusalem — Apayao, Philippines — Pune, India — Bombay, India — and Vellore and Ludhiana Christian Medical Schools, India.

### Women in Mission to the US

While only five women were involved in special projects in 1979, some 15 women leaders will be involved in programs this year through the 1981 Family Thank Offering.

The UCBWM sees its task as expressing solidarity and making available to women tools, training, and opportunity so that they may act on their own behalf in response to God's will of full humanity for all persons.

— Whole Earth Newsletter

# NEWS AND NOTES

Rev. George Bennett of Lithonia, GA has been called to serve the Community Church, LaPorte, TX.

At the Georgia-South Carolina Association Annual Meeting, held in October, Ms. Sue Hartman, Administrative Assistant for the Southeast Conference Office, was commissioned as a Christian Educator in which capacity she will continue to serve conference churches. Ms. Hartman received her professional training in Christian education.

Belvidere, TN, UCC has done it again! The occasion: fund-raising for installation of two furnaces and ducting for heating of the Church School building. The amount contributed: \$3353.18. Congratulations!

The Fairfield Glade, TN, Lion's Club honored Peggy Hall on November 168 in appreciation for selling \$500+ tickets to their annual travelogue series. Peggy is the wife of Rev. Walter Hall, pastor of Pleasant Hill, TN, Community Church.

The Center for Faith Development, a division of Emory University's Candler School of Theology, is announcing "Ex-

plorations in Faith for Christian Education," a weekend event scheduled for February 26-27. Cost for the program is \$25.00. Interested persons should contact a member of the Center staff at 329-4155.

Over 70 people attended the Cantata-Pageant-Candlelighting Service held on December 20th at St. John's UCC, Cullman, AL.

Rev. James Cowlshaw, former pastor of Langdale, AL, UCC, has recently retired from the parish ministry. Rev. Cowlshaw's last pastorate was Rogers Park UCC in Kannapolis, N.C.

Trinity Lutheran Church was the site of a joint Thanksgiving Eve Service held between the congregations of Trinity and Button-Gwinnett UCC, Lilburn, GA. Rev. Joe Irwin, Button-Gwinnett's pastor, helped to lead the service.

Pressley Ingram, a member of Birmingham Pilgrim UCC, spent a week in November in Louisville, KY at an executive meeting of the UCC Board for World Ministries.

Crossroads 1982, a training event for young adult ministries, will be held at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin June 21-26, 1982. Persons interested should write to: Lee A. Moore, Young Adult Ministries, UCBHM, 132 West 31 Street, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Pilgrim UCC united with First UCC in Chattanooga, TN, for a joint Thanksgiving Eve service. Pumpkin pie and cider were enjoyed before the service.

United Methodist Bishop James Armstrong was elected to serve as the next President of the National Council of Churches. His term of office will be 3 years.

Rev. Robert Dana, Interim Minister for Button-Gwinnett UCC, has been called to First Congregational Church, UCC in Cambridge, Nebraska.

The Sr. High young people of Lanett UCC, Lanett, AL participated in a Rock-a-Thon November 13-14 to raise money for youth activities.

Rev. Joe Irwin and Rev. Ira Chace, pastors of new church starts in the Atlanta area, attended a meeting in Winter Park, FL November 18-19 hosted by UCBHM for all pastors of UCC new church starts.

A seminar on public policy concerning health and human services was sponsored by Central UCC, Atlanta, GA on November 15. The situation as well as means of service were explored.

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